

Chairman's Report 2020

In a way, this has been a quiet year spent reflecting on our success in Birmingham and looking forward to our London Conference. We are plodding away trying to raise our profile so that those affected by KC can find us.

We are very fortunate in the quality of speaker we have been able to attract. As well as having Bita here today, our Birmingham branch is looking forward to hosting Professor Martin Rubinstein who has a wealth of knowledge and experience in treating Keratoconus. The talk in September from Dr Vijay Anand was extremely well received and his slide showing twelve different examples of KC illustrated how different and difficult we are to treat. At the last AGM Prof. Alison Hardcastle gave an enlightening update on the UCL/Moorfields genetic research programme. Since then their paper has been published and we are looking forward to hearing about its impact at our Conference in June.

With such quality speakers it is essential we get our publicity right and I am pleased to welcome Graham Ward who is joining Caroline to develop our social media presence.

Our attendance at the Hertford Scleral Lens Symposium is always worth while and last year led to a visit to Bosch + Lomb where they shut down production for an hour to allow the whole staff to listen to our patient perspective. This led to us reconnecting with Contimac only to discover that they are still looking after some of our members who volunteered following an article in our 2011 newsletter.

We are looking forward to hearing about the Nottingham University project on Corneal Nerves which was facilitated by the partnership with Fight for Sight and are eagerly awaiting the winner of the 2019 award. We have met with one of the applicants who has a very exciting project.

Our attempt to start a regional Group in Brighton has fizzled out but we have formed a valuable link with the consultant who has asked us to host a web based algorithm to aid surgeons which is being developed in conjunction with Sussex University.

The beating heart of the association is the helpline and Forum. I have to pay tribute to Anne who is always ready to distribute information and comfort to the newly diagnosed and those with pressing issues.

I just want to finish by saying that we are open to ideas. If you would like to help in any way, please chat to a committee member before you leave. You don't have to serve on the committee, it is your ideas and imagination that we need to help make lives better for others sharing our condition.

David Gable